



*City of Hamilton Annex*  
202 South Third Street  
Hamilton, MT 59840

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October 31, 2007

Lynn Zanto  
Supervisor of Statewide and Urban Planning Section  
Montana Department of Transportation  
2701 Prospect Avenue  
P.O. Box 201001  
Helena, Montana 59620-1001

**RE: City of Hamilton and Ravalli County Transportation Plan**

Dear Ms. Zanto:

The purpose of this letter is to request that Montana Department of Transportation help the City of Hamilton and Ravalli County in the preparation of an update of the *City of Hamilton Transportation Plan* and provide financial assistance for the update. The preparation of a new *Transportation Plan* is critical to the planning efforts of both the City of Hamilton and Ravalli County.

The current *Transportation Plan* was prepared in 2002 and is, in many respects, outdated. Between 2000 and 2006, the City of Hamilton population increased 25.3 percent to an estimated total of 4,644 (U.S. Census). During the same 2000 to 2006 time period the population of Ravalli County increased 12.5 percent while the statewide population grew 4.7 percent (U.S. Census). Ravalli County was the third fastest growing county in Montana in the 2000 to 2006 time period. The rapid population change has undoubtedly resulted in increased traffic and direct impacts on the City, County and State road system in the Hamilton area. A City of Hamilton/Ravalli County and MDT *Transportation Plan* will provide a better integration of plans for connections between local and regional transportation needs and costs both along the Highway 93 corridor and between other communities in Ravalli County.

We have been advised that fast growing areas should revise and update transportation projections and plans about every five years as past projections become stale and a number of projects called for in the plan have been completed. Updating transportation plans on a regular basis is also consistent with the planning requirements of state law where capital improvement plans are necessary in support of the assessment of impact fees.

The City of Hamilton is considering the adoption of nonresidential transportation impact fees and updating its residential transportation impact fees and is concerned that the 2002


*Transportation Plan* is not an ideal supporting document for adoption of impact fees. The *2002 Transportation Plan* does not provide a sufficiently detailed connection between planned land uses and development and the needed transportation infrastructure improvements. In addition, the *2002 Transportation Plan* does not provide enough definition between various planning areas and their population densities and non-residential land user, the planned capital improvements and the associated cost estimates.

Finally, the geographic area covered by the *2002 Transportation Plan* does not necessarily encompass the area envisaged as the potential growth area of the City of Hamilton over a twenty or twenty-five year planning horizon. The study area of the *2002 Transportation Plan* was not large enough, particularly considering the unanticipated rate of growth in the County and the City of Hamilton. Any suggestions you may have on this or any other technical details of the planning process are greatly appreciated.

Your office has informed us that the cost of preparing a new *Transportation Plan* will be approximately \$80,000 to \$100,000. The City of Hamilton is budgeting up to \$35,000 and Ravalli County is budgeting up to \$15,000 for this planning project. The City and County are hopeful that state (and perhaps federal) funding is available to pay for one-half the cost of preparing the new *Transportation Plan*. It is our understanding that a funding agreement between the State and the City of Hamilton and Ravalli County will need to be negotiated should you choose to fund this project.

The City of Hamilton and Ravalli County also request that the Montana Department of Transportation help us devise appropriate specifications for the development of the new *Transportation Plan* and assist in the selection of qualified consultants to prepare the plan. We will also need your expertise in the preparation of any contracts, including the final Scope of Work, with the consultants.

We thank you in advance for any assistance you can provide us in the preparation of a new *Hamilton Area Transportation Plan* for the City of Hamilton and Ravalli County. Please advise us at your earliest convenience of the process for procuring your technical and financial support. If you have any questions or require additional information, do not hesitate to contact us. The principal staff contacts for this project are Dennis Stranger (406/363-3316) for the City of Hamilton and Karen Hughes (406/375-6530) for Ravalli County.

  
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Jessica Randazzo, Mayor  
City of Hamilton

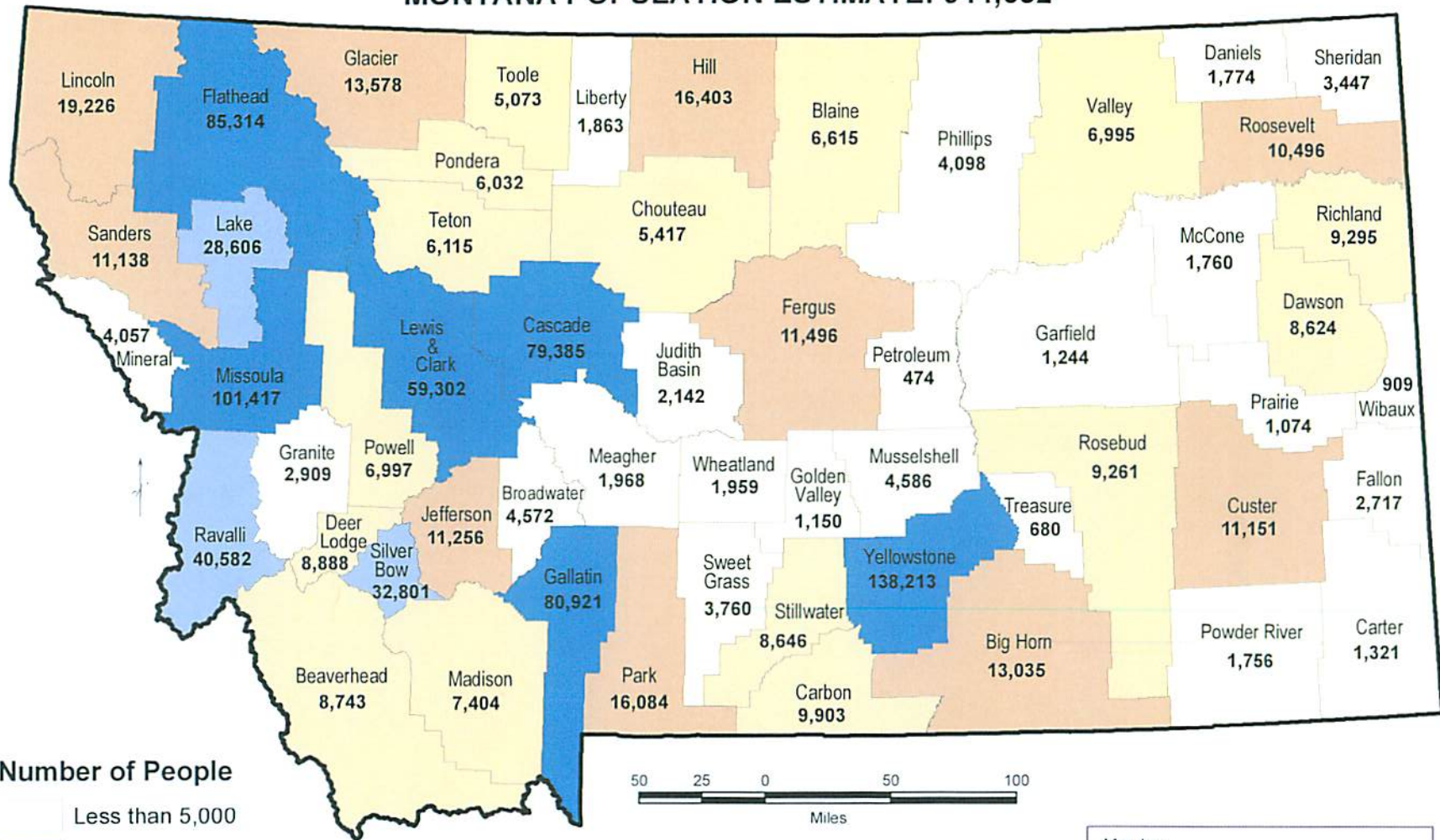
  
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Jim Rokosch, Chairman  
Ravalli County Board of Commissioners



# MONTANA COUNTY POPULATION

July 1, 2006 Population Estimates

MONTANA POPULATION ESTIMATE: 944,632



## Number of People

- Less than 5,000
- 5,000 - 9,999
- 10,000 - 24,999
- 25,000 - 49,999
- 50,000 or More

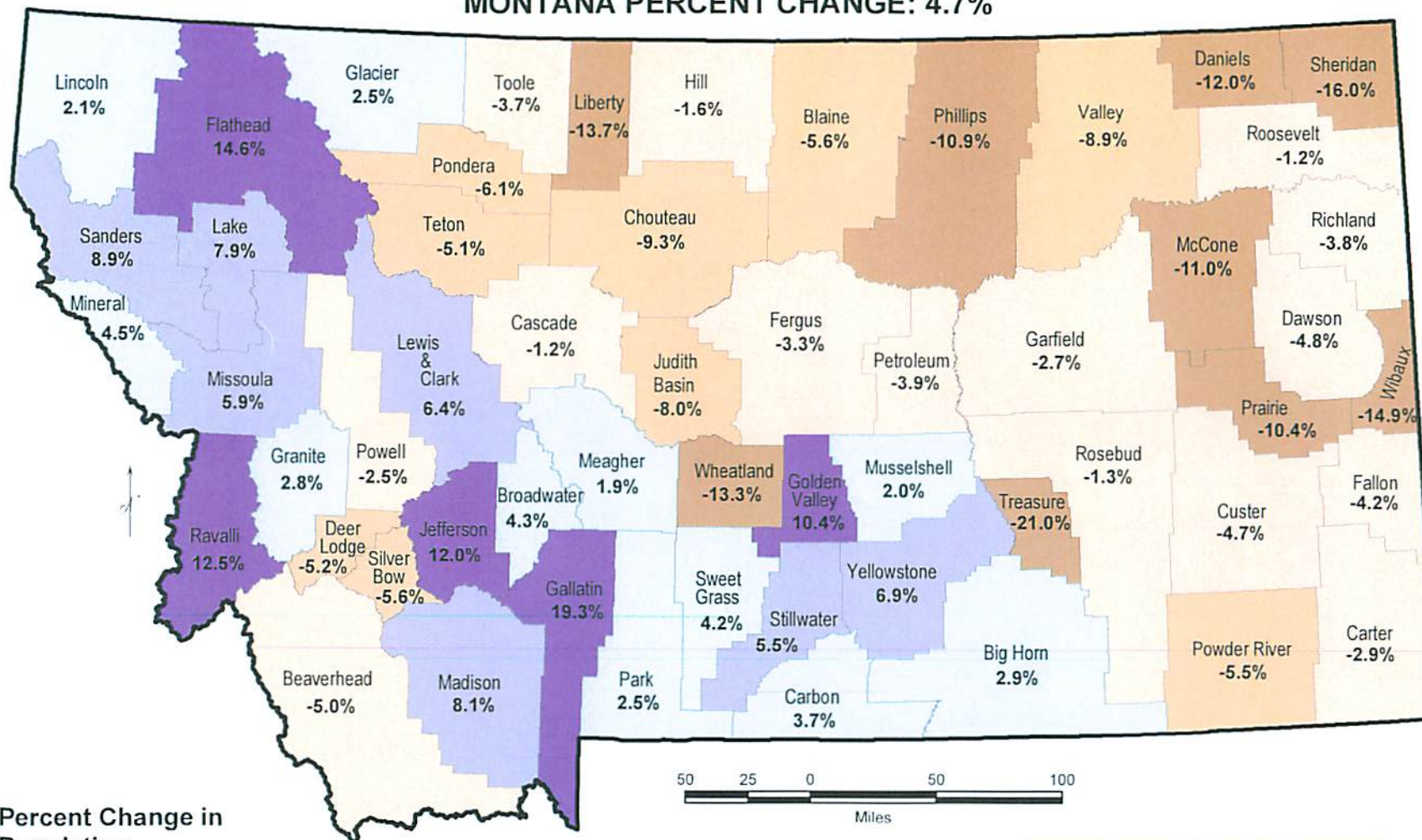
Map by:  
 Census & Economic Information Center  
 Montana Department of Commerce  
 301 S. Park Ave, Helena, MT 59620-0505  
 406-841-2740 ceic@mt.gov  
<http://ceic.mt.gov>

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# MONTANA COUNTY POPULATION

## Percent Change Between 2000 Census and 2006 Estimates

### MONTANA PERCENT CHANGE: 4.7%



#### Percent Change in Population



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